

## **Kansas Health Policy Authority Board Members**

(2-10)



**Garen Cox, JD**

President, Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel for Medicalodges, Inc.

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Garen Cox is the President, Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel for Medicalodges, Inc. home multi-facility operation in America with 41 locations in Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. Medicalodges employs in excess of 2400 employees and is the only 100% employee-owned nursing home multi-facility operation in America. Cox joined Medicalodges after graduating law school and has served as its general counsel handling all of the legal matters associated with a large health care operation.

Since March 14, 2003, Cox has served the company as its President, CEO, and General Counsel. He was recently elected to a third term as President, CEO, and General Counsel. Cox has also served as Medicalodges' Executive Vice-President and General Counsel (1998 to 2003). From 1976 to 1998, Cox was employed by Medicalodges serving as Vice President and General Counsel.

In 1976 Cox began work in private law practice representing individuals in all walks of life and represented indigent defendants in criminal matters until 1998.

Garen Cox graduated from Washburn School of Law in 1976. He completed his undergraduate degree at Kansas University with a Bachelor of Science in Education Degree in 1973.

Cox graduated from Mound City High School (1969) as Co-Valedictorian with numerous awards for leadership and scholastic achievement. Active 4-H Club Member, toured Washington, D.C. sponsored by Rural Electric Cooperative. Toured Europe on music scholarship (Trumpet). Winner of numerous awards in public speaking. Outstanding Student Award by the American Legion and John Phillip Sousa Award for outstanding musician. American Legion Boys State (Senator).

Cox has served the state and community in many capacities:

- Board of Directors of Medicalodges, Inc. (1998 to Present)
- Officer and Board of Directors of Peoples Choice Credit Union, Coffeyville, KS (1980 to 2005)
- Leadership Kansas (1992)

- Served on the Governor's Long-Term Care Task Force for the State of Kansas (appointed by Governor Bill Graves).
- Active in local Nazarene Church as past Board Member, Teacher, Leader.
- Member of American Bar Association, American Trial Lawyers Association, American Health Lawyers Association, Kansas Bar Association, Kansas Trial Lawyers Association, and Montgomery County Bar Association.
- Currently serves on the American Health Care Association's Medical Liability Reform Subcommittee (2004 to present) and the Kansas Health Care Association's Tort Reform Subcommittee (Chair) (2004 to present).
- Kansas Health Care Association's Multi-Facility Vice-President. (2005)
- Has served or is presently serving on other groups related to the improvement of the health care community and volunteer groups.
- Frequent lecturer and teacher on health care issues and taught a course for paralegal training at Independence Community College.
- Appointed by the Speaker of the Kansas House, Doug Mays, to serve on the Kansas Health Policy Authority under what was described by Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius as "one of the most significant reorganizations in the history of state government in Kansas." (August 2005)

Garen Cox has been married for thirty years to Waneta who is a teacher for the Tri-County Special Education Cooperative at the Independence High School in Independence, KS. They have two adult children: Branden and Christopher.



**Ray Davis, PhD**

Associate Professor, Department of Public Administration, University of Kansas

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Dr. Ray Davis is a faculty member in the Department of Public Administration, University of Kansas. He holds a PhD from the University of California in political science and public policy. While in graduate school, he was a staff consultant for the Natural Resources Committee, California State Senate from 1968 to 1972. He was a post doctoral Fellow with the US Public Health Service in Washington DC 1974 to 1976. He was a Board member and Chair of the Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center in Lawrence and served for nine years as a Trustee (Chair) of the Lawrence Memorial Hospital. He was the founding Chair of the Department of Health Policy and Management at KU that he chaired for 16 years. His research has focused on problems of access to health care, most recently on children's access to dental services.



**Ken Daniel**

Chairman of the Board, Midway Wholesale of Topeka

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Ken Daniel is Chairman of the Board of Midway Wholesale of Topeka, which he founded in 1970. He took partial retirement from Midway in August 2008. He is also the managing partner of Wohlgemuth & Daniel Investments, LLP. In Topeka, he has been the volunteer leader of the Jaycees, the Active 20/30 Club, the YMCA, the YMCA Foundation, the Construction Specifications Institute, and the Topeka Independent Business Association. He is a board member of the Better Business Bureau and Fidelity State Bank. Statewide, he served four years as a state Jaycee officer and three years as state chairman of the National Federation of Independent Business. He serves as an appointee on three state boards: Board Member of the Kansas Center for Entrepreneurship; Member of the Kansas, Inc. Strategic Planning Committee; Kansas Health Policy Authority Board of Directors.



## **Rob Kaplan**

Professor of Management Practice, Harvard Business School.

<u>Contact Information:</u> 85 Broad Street, 22 <sup>nd</sup> Floor New York, NY 10004 (212) 902-7761 Fax (212) 357-8236 <a href="mailto:Rob.kaplan@gs.com">Rob.kaplan@gs.com</a> <a href="mailto:rokaplan@hbs.edu">rokaplan@hbs.edu</a>	<u>Assistant Info:</u> Sandy Martin (212) 902-7761 Fax (212) 357-8236 <a href="mailto:Sandy.martin@gs.com">Sandy.martin@gs.com</a>
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Mr. Kaplan is Professor of Management Practice at Harvard Business School. He is also Senior Director of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. Until January of 2006, he was vice-chairman of Goldman Sachs and a member of the firm's Management Committee.

Previously, Mr. Kaplan served as global co-head of the Investment Banking Division from 1999 through mid-2002. At that time, he was appointed vice chairman of the firm with responsibility of the investment banking and investment management divisions of the firm. He became a partner with the firm in 1990.

Mr. Kaplan also served as co-chairman of the firm's Partnership Committee and chaired the Goldman Sachs Pine Street Leadership Program. He is a member of the Board of Harvard Medical School, co-chairs the advisory council of the Harvard Center for Neurodegeneration and Repair and is Board co-chair for Project A.L.S.

Mr. Kaplan is originally from Prairie Village, Kansas, and is a graduate of the University of Kansas.



**Arneatha Martin, BSN, MSN, ARNP**

Retired Co-President and CEO, Center for Health and Wellness

<u>Home Address:</u> 5218 Pembroke Circle Wichita, KS 67220 (316) 684-6469 Cell: (316) 210-5021 <a href="mailto:arneathamartin@hotmail.com">arneathamartin@hotmail.com</a>	<u>Assistant Info:</u>
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Arneatha Martin has served the health community in many capacities throughout her profession. Having recently retired, Martin leaves behind a distinguished career that includes: Director Department of Education and Research, St. Joseph Medical Center, 1987-1996, Director of Development, Via Christi Health System, 1996-1998, and Chief Executive Officer & Co-President, Center for Health and Wellness, Inc., 1998 – 2005. (retired May 2005).

Arneatha Martin received her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing in 1975 and Masters of Science degree in Nursing in 1980. She received her Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) certification in 1996 from the Kansas State Board of Nursing. Martin is a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army Reserve (Retired). She spent 6 months in Saudi Arabia during the Gulf War.

Martin's involvement in the community is extensive. She is involved with or holds office with the following organizations:

- Wichita State University Board of Trustees
- Board of Directors, Sedgwick County Board of Health
- Team member, National Governor's Policy Academy of Chronic Disease Prevention & Management.
- Board of Directors, Wichita State University Alumni Assoc.
- Board of Directors, Step Stone
- Board of Directors, American Red Cross
- Board of Directors, Center for Health and Wellness
- Board of Directors, American Lung Association
- Board of Directors, Regional Prevention Center

Martin is also widely involved in professional organizations:

- Wichita State Nursing Alumni Society
- Wichita Black Nurses Association
- Kansas Association of Health Education
- Kansas State Nurses Association
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority

- Kansas State Nurses' Association
- Soroptimist International of Wichita
- National Black Nurses' Association
- Wichita Chapter of Links, Inc.
- Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society of Nursing

Martin's notable career has awarded her many honors. These include:

- Sedgwick County Community Enrichment Award 2004.
- National Black Nurses Administrator of the Year Award 2002.
- The National Conference for Community and Justice Humanitarian Awards 2002.
- Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leader Award 2001.
- Search Committee member for Wichita State University's President and Dean of College of Health Professions.
- Leadership Kansas class of '98.
- Women in NAACP award 1997.
- Martin Luther King, Jr. 1998 Recognition Award.
- Distinguished Nursing Alumni Award 1997.
- Up with people Award, Urban League of Wichita.
- Wichita State University Alumni Achievement Award 1998.
- President, Kansas State Board of Nursing 1996-97.



**Vernon A. Mills, MD**

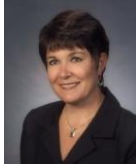
Pediatrician

<u>Work Address:</u> 3550 S. 4th Street, Suite 120 Leavenworth, KS 66048 (913) 772-6046 Fax: 913-758-0500 <a href="mailto:vamdlh@birch.net">vamdlh@birch.net</a>	<u>Assistant Info:</u> Nancy Agnew (913) 772-6046 ext. 206
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Dr. Vernon Mills, a pediatrician, graduated from the University of Kansas School of Medicine, Kansas City, KS in 1977 after earning a Bachelors of Science in pharmacy from Howard University in 1974. He went on to complete his internship and residency at the District of Columbia General Hospital, Washington, DC, 1978 and 1979 respectively. In 1980, Dr. Mills completed a Pediatric Infection Disease Fellowship at the University of Texas at Houston, Houston, TX. He is board certified by the American Board of Pediatrics.

Dr. Mills' professional activities have included being a founding member and first president of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association in 1972 and has held positions of: Alternate Councilor, Councilor, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, and President of the Kansas Medical Society. He has also held the position of President of the KAW Valley Medical Society. Dr. Mills is an active member of the National Medical Association and the American Medical Association. He has been active on the Board of Directors for Heartland Health, Sunflower Foundation, and KAMMCO.

Dr. Mills and his wife, Cheryl, have four children, two daughters and two sons.



**Susan Page, MA**

CEO of Pratt Regional Medical Center

<u>Work Address:</u> Pratt Regional Medical Center 200 Commodore St. Pratt, KS 67124 (620) 450-1163 Fax: (620) 672-2113 <a href="mailto:spage@prmc.org">spage@prmc.org</a>	<u>Assistant Info:</u> Nancy Bailey <a href="mailto:nbailey@prmc.org">nbailey@prmc.org</a> (620) 450-1160
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Susan Page has been President and CEO of Pratt Regional Medical Center since 1993.

Susan received her Master's degree in Business Administration from Webster University in St. Louis, MO and her Bachelor's degree in Medical Record Administration from the University of Kansas. She is a Certified Diplomate in the American College of Healthcare Executives.

She has served as President and CEO since 1993. Pratt Regional Medical Center includes a 69 bed acute care hospital, a 51 bed long-term care nursing home, a home health agency, 2 physician specialty clinics, and three outlying rural health clinics.

Page served as Chairman of the Board of the Kansas Hospital Association in 2002 and 2003, and recently completed her term on the Board. She is currently serving on the Region 6 Policy Board of the American Hospital Association.

Page serves on Congressman Moran's Executive Council; serves on the Regents Advisory Council of the American College of Healthcare Executives; is a member of VHA Mid-America Board of Directors; and previously served as president of the Kansas Association of Healthcare Executives, Chair of the Kansas Hospital Service Corporation, and as a member of the Kansas Chamber of Commerce and Industry board of Directors.

Locally, Page is past President of the Pratt Area Chamber of Commerce; a founding Board member of Leadership 2000, a member of the Pratt Rotary Club, and Sacred Heart Church.

Susan and her husband Jim have two children, Katie who is 17 and Hannah who is 13.



## **Dr. William A. Reed**

Chairman, The University of Kansas Hospital Department of Cardiovascular Diseases

<u>Work Address:</u> 3901 Rainbow Blvd. Mailstop 4035 Kansas City, KS 66160 <u>Mailing Address:</u> P.O. Box 3156 Kansas City, KS 66103 (913) 588-2846 Fax: (913) 588-2870 <a href="mailto:wreed2@kumc.edu">wreed2@kumc.edu</a>	<u>Assistant Info:</u> Pat Kinsman (913) 588-2846 Fax: (913) 588-2870 <a href="mailto:pkinsman@kumc.edu">pkinsman@kumc.edu</a>
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Dr. Reed currently serves as the Chairman of the Department of Cardiovascular Diseases at the University of Kansas Hospital in Kansas City, Kansas. He received his medical degree from Indiana University and his post-graduate work was done at the University of Kansas. He served on the faculty of the University of Kansas Medical Center for 10 years during which time he became a tenured Professor in Surgery and Chairman of the Thoracic Surgical Division of the Department of Surgery. He subsequently moved to St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri in 1971 where he founded the Mid America Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgeons group specializing in heart, vascular, and pulmonary surgery. In 2001 Dr. Reed moved back to the University of Kansas Hospital with a number of his surgical specialty and cardiology colleagues from St. Luke's to re-establish a Cardiovascular Program. A physician partnership established with the hospital leadership at the University of Kansas Hospital has resulted in a nationally recognized program in cardiovascular diseases.

He has authored or co-authored 94 scientific publications and performed over 10,000 open heart operations during his career.

Dr. Reed has been married for over 50 years to Mary J. Reed and has three sons. Dr. and Mrs. Reed also established Stonecrest Farm dedicated to breeding and racing thoroughbreds.



**Joe Tilghman**

Retired, Midwest Consortium Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS), HHS

<u>Home Address:</u> 10205 Bond St Overland Park, KS 66214 (913) 888-8545 <a href="mailto:jtilghman@kc.rr.com">jtilghman@kc.rr.com</a>	<u>Assistant Info:</u>
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Joe Tilghman has served the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in a senior field leadership position in a career spanning nearly the entire period of enactment of the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Tilghman retired on January, 2005, after 37 years of distinguished federal service.

As Midwest Consortium Administrator, Tilghman was responsible for federal administration of the Medicare and Medicaid programs in IA, KS, MO, NE, MN, MI, IN, IL, WI, and OH. He was an active member of the CMS Executive Council. Tilghman worked a six month detail to New York City following 9-11 to run the New York City, Boston, and Philadelphia regions. Prior to joining CMS (then the Health Care Financing Administration) in 1978 he worked in Social and Rehabilitative Services and the Bureau of Health Insurance.

A former Army Captain, Tilghman earned his Bachelors of Arts from the University of Kansas in 1967, majoring in philosophy and English. In 1970, he went on to complete a Masters of Science from Troy State University in education. Tilghman has also completed 30 hours of graduate work in Public Health Administration at the University of Missouri at Kansas City, 1972 – 1978.

Joe Tilghman and wife, Jo Anne Hardy, have two adult children: Stephanie and Abigail.

## **Ex-officio Members**



**Andrew Allison, BA, MA, PhD**

Executive Director of the Kansas Health Policy Authority (Pending Kansas Senate Confirmation)

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Dr. Allison began working at KHPA in December 2005 as the Deputy Director. He took on the additional role of State Medicaid Director in November 2006. Before joining KHPA, he spent six years at the Kansas Health Institute as a researcher and Director of Health Care Finance and Organization. His research focused primarily on the effectiveness, availability and cost of health care and health insurance in Kansas. He worked as a Medicaid budget analyst at the Office of Management and Budget in Washington, D.C., from 1992-95 providing staff support to President Clinton's health care reform effort and reviewing comprehensive statewide health care reform waiver applications. He has a bachelor's degree in history from Oklahoma Baptist University, a master's degree in public policy from Duke University, and a doctorate in economics from Vanderbilt University.



## **Secretary Roderick Bremby**

Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment

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Roderick L. Bremby serves as Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. His background includes extensive work on community health issues and 17 years in municipal management.

In his role as Secretary of KDHE, Bremby oversees the regulation of health and environmental entities in Kansas including child care centers, food service businesses, hospitals, laboratories, feedlots, landfills, and various other industries with environmental impacts. He works with the governor and state legislature to develop policies and regulations designed to improve the health of Kansans and the environmental condition of the state. In this position, Secretary Bremby also oversees programs dedicated to providing disease surveillance and prevention efforts, bioterrorism planning guidance, local and rural health assistance, health care and environmental information, and statewide health promotional campaigns.

Prior to his January 2003 appointment by Governor Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary Bremby served as a research assistant professor at the University of Kansas and as associate director of the Work Group on Health Promotion and Community Development. His work involved providing technical assistance, evaluation support and community research for community health initiatives. Secretary Bremby has been a consultant for a variety of organizations, community coalitions, advocacy organizations, local government agencies, and the US Agency for International Development (Strengthening Democracy in Uganda).

Secretary Bremby served 10 years as the assistant city manager in Lawrence, Kansas where he was responsible for overseeing the budgeting process, police, fire and medical, public works, water, sewer, finance, information systems, and parks and recreation departments.

Secretary Bremby holds a masters degree in public administration from KU, where he completed an undergraduate degree in psychology and communication studies. He also completed postgraduate study at the Brookings Institution, The Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, and an executive development course at The Center for Creative Leadership. Secretary Bremby is a Kansas Health Foundation Fellow and a graduate of Leadership Forth Worth, Leadership Lawrence, and Leadership Kansas.

Secretary Bremby has received the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce Buford Watson Public Service Award, has been listed among the Outstanding Young Men of America, Who's Who Among Black Americans, and Who's Who in America. As a past recipient of the University of Kansas' Rusty Leffel Concerned Student Award, the R. Scott Brooks Memorial Award, Secretary Bremby was inducted into Pi Alpha Alpha and Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Societies. Having served on numerous local, state and national boards and commissions, Secretary Bremby

continues his involvement with the Lawrence Partnership for Children and Youth, a group working to promote community collaboration on behalf of the well being of children and youth by promoting America's Promise.



**Secretary Martin Kennedy**

Secretary of the Kansas Department on Aging

<u>Work Address:</u> 503 S Kansas Ave Topeka, KS 66603 (785) 296-5222 <a href="mailto:Martin.Kennedy@aging.ks.gov">Martin.Kennedy@aging.ks.gov</a>	<u>Assistant Info:</u> Traci Ward (785) 296-5222 FAX: (785) 296-0767 <a href="mailto:Traci.Ward@aging.ks.gov">Traci.Ward@aging.ks.gov</a>
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Martin Kennedy was appointed Acting Secretary of the Department on Aging in early August 2009. His career in government and health care management and finance spans over more than 20 years, focusing on building systems and advocating services that support vulnerable Kansans. He has served in management positions at Kansas Department on Aging since 2004. He was Director of Budget and Governmental Affairs from 2004 to 2006 and Commissioner of Licensure, Certification and Evaluation from 2006 to 2008.

Kennedy was Chief Financial Officer at the Mental Health Consortium, an Administrative Services Organization, from 2000 through 2004. His previous government service includes work as Controller for the Kansas Insurance Department from 1996 to 1999. He was an analyst in the Kansas Division of the Budget from 1986 through 1995. He currently serves on the board of Valeo Behavioral Health Care in Topeka, and chairs the board of University Child Development, an affiliate of Washburn University. Kennedy earned a Master of Public Administration Degree and a Bachelor's Degree in History from Kansas State University.



**Secretary Duane Goossen**

Secretary of Administration

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Duane Goossen serves Kansas in a dual role, as both the State Budget Director and as the Secretary of Administration. Goossen was appointed as the Secretary of Administration in 2004 and has been the State Budget Director since 1998. He has also served as chairman of the Information Technology Executive Council.

A 1978 gradate of Bethel College, Goossen is an active member of the National Association of State Budget Officers.



**Secretary Don Jordan**

Secretary of Social and Rehabilitation Services

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Don Jordan was appointed Acting Secretary of SRS in December 2006. As Secretary, he oversees the operation of one of the state's largest agencies with an approximate budget of \$1.5 billion and 6,000 employees. Prior to assuming the role of Cabinet Secretary at SRS, Don served as Commissioner of the Juvenile Justice Authority. Don brings three decades of SRS experience in the field of human services to his position; he is the former Superintendent for Osawatomie State Hospital, Director of Operations for Children & Family Services, and Director of Operations for Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities. Don is a native of Wichita. He attended Wichita State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in history and a master's degree in political science.



**Dr. Jason Eberhart-Phillips**

Director of Health and Kansas State Health Officer, KDHE

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Dr. Jason Eberhart-Phillips became the Director of Health and Kansas State Health Officer with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, in March 2009. Dr. Eberhart-Phillips had served as the county health officer of El Dorado County, California, since 2006. Prior to his appointment as health officer in El Dorado County, Dr. Eberhart-Phillips served as senior lecturer in the Department of Preventive and Social Medicine at Otago University in Dunedin, New Zealand.

He earned his undergraduate degree in journalism from Northwestern University and his medical degree from the University of California San Francisco. He also holds a master's degree in public health from the University of California Berkeley, and a master of divinity degree from the Pacific School of Religion.

Dr. Eberhart-Phillips has also served as the chronic disease director for the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, as a medical epidemiologist for the ESR Health Communicable Disease Centre in Porirua, New Zealand, and as an Epidemic Intelligence Service officer for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Before becoming a physician, Dr. Eberhart-Phillips worked as a news reporter in Pennsylvania and Arizona. He has been the lead or principal investigator on a number of research and surveillance activities, and he is a well-published author, writing two books and numerous medical articles.



**Dr. Diane DeBacker**

Interim Commissioner of Education

<u>Work Address:</u> 120 SW 10 <sup>th</sup> Street Topeka, KS 66612 (785) 296-3202 <a href="mailto:ddebacker@ksde.org">ddebacker@ksde.org</a>	<u>Assistant Info:</u> Penny Rice (785) 296-3202 FAX: (785) 291-3791 <a href="mailto:price@ksde.org">price@ksde.org</a>
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Dr. Diane DeBacker is currently serving as the Interim Commissioner of Education, as well as the Deputy Commissioner for the Division of Learning Services for the Kansas State Department of Education. She also served as Director of School Improvement and Accreditation for KSDE from 2003 - 2006. In 2006, she joined Shawnee Heights USD 450 as Associate Superintendent. Dr. DeBacker was principal of Washburn Rural Alternative High School in the Auburn-Washburn USD 437 school district. She has also served as a high school assistant principal, district curriculum facilitator, director of a statewide curriculum center, and a classroom teacher. Dr. DeBacker served on the Kaw Valley USD 321 school board from 1999-2003, including the offices of president and vice president. She has also served as an adjunct professor at Kansas State University and Washburn University. Dr. DeBacker has a bachelor's degree in Business Education from Emporia State University, a master's in Curriculum and Instruction from Washburn University, and a doctorate in Educational Administration and Leadership from Kansas State University.



**Sandy Praeger**

Insurance Commissioner

<u>Work Address:</u> Kansas Insurance Dept. 420 SW 9 <sup>th</sup> St Topeka, KS 66612 (785) 291-3299 <a href="mailto:spraeger@ksinsurance.org">spraeger@ksinsurance.org</a>	<u>Assistant Info:</u> Karen Rippel (785) 291-3299 FAX: (785) 296-7805 <a href="mailto:krippel@ksinsurance.org">krippel@ksinsurance.org</a>
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Commissioner Sandy Praeger was elected as Kansas' 24th Commissioner of Insurance on November 2, 2002 and began serving in the position on January 13, 2003. Commissioner Praeger is responsible for regulating all insurance sold in Kansas and overseeing the nearly 1,700 insurance companies and 65,000 agents licensed to do business in the state.

Currently, she serves as Secretary-Treasurer of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC). Also within the NAIC, she serves on the Ex-1 Committee for Internal Administration, chairs the Audit Committee, is Vice Chair of the Health Insurance and Managed Care Committee and is a member of the Life Insurance and Annuities Committee. She previously served as vice chair for the NAIC Midwestern Zone.

She was elected previously to the Kansas Senate in 1992, 1996 and 2000, and before that served one term in the Kansas House of Representatives. While in the legislature, she worked to gain passage of patient protection laws, external review of health plans and insurance, and the Kansas expansion of children's health insurance. In 2001 she led the successful campaign for mental health parity in Kansas.

AARP and Kansas Wildlife Federation all have recognized Commissioner Praeger as their "legislator of the year" for her work on issues important to their organizations.

A resident of Lawrence, Kansas, she served as mayor of Lawrence from 1986-87, and she served on the Lawrence City Commission from 1985-89.

Her community involvement includes the United Way of Douglas County Board of Directors, and she is a founding member of three local boards: Health Care Access (a clinic for the medically indigent), the Haskell Indian Nations University Foundation, and C.A.S.A. (Court Appointed Special Advocates), an organization dedicated to helping children who come under the jurisdiction of the court.

Commissioner Praeger has been a speaker before numerous national organizations including: the American Association of Health Plans; the National Conference of State Legislatures; The Forum for State Health Policy Leadership; the National Association of Chain Drug Stores; the American Academy of Pediatrics; Women in Government; and the National Association of Health Data Organizations.

In 1999 Commissioner Praeger was a recipient of the prestigious Dr. Nathan B. Davis Award which is given annually by the American Medical Association to individuals who have made a significant contribution to the public health through elected and career government service.

In March of 1998, she testified before the U.S. Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, at the request of Senator James Jeffords, Chairman, on the topic of "balanced federalism" as it relates to health regulatory issues. She also appeared before the U.S. Senate Small Business Committee in February of 2003 expressing regulators' concerns about association health plans.

In 1997, The Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved also recognized her leadership on health care access issues. She was also recognized by The Center for Populations Options for legislation she sponsored in 1994 to create teen pregnancy prevention programs in Kansas.

Commissioner Praeger is a graduate of the University of Kansas. She lives in Lawrence with her husband, Dr. Mark Praeger, where she is active in several community organizations. They have two children, Gretchen and J.D., a daughter-in-law, Sevrin, a grandson, Jakson and a granddaughter Ava Margaret.